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ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SURVEY CORPS

REPORT ON OPERATION
SHORT WALK II



4 FIELD SURVEY SQUADRON
1977

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PROJECT REPORT

OPERATION

"SHORT WALK II"

AMENDMENTS

No	Date	Initials	No	Date	Initials

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PROJECT REPORT

OPERATION "SHORT WALK II"

- References:
- A. Dept of Defence (Army Office) A474-1-48 of 25 Nov 75
 - B. FF Comd Ops 10131 of 26 Apr 77
 - C. 4 FF Gp Mounting Instruction 1/77, 788/KS2/21 dated 9 May 77
 - D. 4 Fd Svy Sqn Operation Instruction 1/77, 788/2/55 dated 11 May 77

General

1. Operation SHORT WALK II was mounted by 4 Fd Svy Sqn during the period 24 May 77 to 24 Jun 77. The aim of the operation was to:
 - a. field complete plots of 1:50000 scale maps in the SH 53-7 Billa Kalina and SH 53-11 Kingoonya 1:250000 scale map areas, bounded by the rectangle 29° 30'S to 30° 45'S and 135° 15' E to 136° 15' E; and
 - b. reconnoitre the remaining areas of the Billa Kalina and Kingoonya 1:250000 scale map areas to assist interpretation of features from aerial photography, for future plotting.
2. The area of operation is shown in Annex C. Field completion reports for the individual 1:50000 map sheets are contained in Annex D, and a report on the reconnaissance is Annex E to this report.

Organization

3. The operation was carried out by a detachment of 4 Fd Svy Sqn, under command of 3172833 CAPT R.L. Roche, with attachments from 171 Op Spt Sqn, Army Avn, and SA Dept of Agriculture & Fisheries. Det 4 Fd Svy Sqn was sub-divided into a Headquarters Group, a Support Group and three Field Groups.
4. The organization and nominal roll of personnel engaged on the operation are Annexes A and B, respectively, to this report.

Method of Operation

5. A main base was established at WRE, Mirikata and forward bases were occupied at Vivian Wells (an out-station of Mt Vivian Station), and on Millers Creek station.
6. HQ Gp, Spt Gp and Fd Gp A were stationed, at main base. Fd Gp B operated from mainbase from 5 Jun 77 to 24 Jun 77.
7. Forward Base Vivian Wells was occupied by Fd Gp B and Fd Gp C from 25 May 77 to 5 Jun 77. Forward Base Millers Creek was occupied by Fd Gp C from 8 Jun 77 to 21 Jun 77.
8. With the exception of 5938-I Balta, 6038-IV Ware, 6038-I Yarrabolina Hill and 6138-IV Serrated Range, all map sheets were checked both on the ground and from the air. Ground parties (Fd Gp B and Fd Gp C) checked road and track classifications, additions and deletions and cultural detail including buildings, dams, fences, gates, etc. Air parties (Fd Gp A) were primarily concerned with

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classification of timber and drainage features. There was liaison between ground and air parties at regular intervals and queries raised by ground parties were re-checked by air, and vice-versa.

9. Due to the nature of the "going" in the northern part of the area it was more efficient to check the sheets excepted in para B above by air only. In this instance the air party checked all detail.

Field Completion Material

10. Field completion was done using preliminary maps printed by silk screen from the plot sheets. Plotting was done in ink and in most instances the line work was suitable for contacting directly to the silk screen stencil. When the line work was too thin, the plot sheets were contacted to film positive, using reversal film, and the line weight increased on the film positive. The silk screen stencils were then made from the film positives. Different colours were used to depict the following information:

- a. Black. All cultural detail, including roads and tracks, and nomenclature.
- b. Brown. Relief detail.
- c. Blue. Drainage detail.
- d. Green. Vegetation detail.
- e. Red. Queries raised during both the plotting and initial edit stages.

11. In addition to the preliminary maps, stable base copies (Ozalids) of the plot sheets were produced for recording the corrections.

Recording of Information

12. In the field, field parties marked corrections and classification information onto the relevant preliminary map. On return to base camp all information was recorded onto the stable base copies of the plot sheets. Anomalies were resolved before proceeding further with the field completion.

13. On completion of each plot sheet area, colour guides were produced, using preliminary maps, for road, drainage and vegetation classifications.

Aircraft Support

14. One LOH from 171 Op Spt Sqn was used on the operation from 18 May 77 to 20 Jun 77. Of the 100 task hours allocated only 85.6 were used due to aircraft malfunction toward the end of the operation, which necessitated its return to its own base. As all priority tasks had been completed by this time no replacement was requested.

15. The aircraft was used exclusively on operational tasks as, because of the size and nature of the area of operation, resupply and administrative tasks could be economically carried out by road.

16. One officer and two other ranks were deployed with the aircraft, with a change of pilot occurring on 9 Jun 77. A 'C' service was carried out on 9 Jun 77,

/at Woomera,

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at Woomera, by personnel from 171 Op Spt Sqn who were attached for the period of the service.

17. A spirit of co-operation existed between RA Svy and Army Avn personnel at all times and the enthusiasm and interest of Army Avn personnel contributed significantly to the success of the operation.

Civilian Support

18. Two members of the Arid Zone Section of the Soil Conservation Branch of the South Australian Department of Agriculture and Fisheries were attached to the operation for varying periods between 30 May 77 and 9 Jun 77. Consultation with these personnel on classification of drainage features was of great assistance.

Administration

19. WRE. Considerable assistance was received from WRE. They provided:

- a. accommodation at Woomera and Mirikata;
- b. supply of rations and resupply to main base;
- c. cooking staff at main base;
- d. limited canteen supplies;
- e. supply of aircraft and vehicle fuels at main base;
- f. medical support and evacuation;
- g. vehicle recovery, beyond unit resources (this service was not required)
- h. aircraft servicing facilities at Woomera; and
- i. rear link communications (telephone and telex).

20. Pay. Members of Det 4 Fd Svy Sqn were paid in advance for the period of the operation.

21. Health. With one exception the health of personnel engaged on the operation was good. One member became ill toward the middle of the operation and was evacuated back to Adelaide by WRE.

22. Morale. Morale remained high throughout the operation. The standard of accommodation and rationing provided by WRE was a major factor in the maintenance of morale.

23. Discipline. No situation arose that required disciplinary action.

24. Public Relations. Contact was established with property owners and/or managers prior to the Det leaving Adelaide and was maintained throughout the operation by visits from field parties, and social interchange both on an organized basis and between individual Det personnel and property owners. Most property owners displayed a keen interest in the work being done by the Det and provided willing assistance. Relationships were cordial at all times. The following owners/managers were contacted:

/Billa Kalina Station:

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Billa Kalina Station : Mr K. Greenfield
Bon Bon Station : Mr K. Beames
Mount Vivian Station : Mr D. Smith
Mount Eba Station : Mr W. Morrish
The Twins Station : Mr D. Rankin
Millers Creek Station : Mr B. Jenkins
Parakylia Station : Mr B. Murray
Bulgunnia Station : Mr G. Menadue

25. Visits. The following personnel visited main base on 16 Jun 77:

LTCOL Wilkinson C of S HQ 4 FF Gp
MAJ Gruszka OC 4 Fd Svy Sqn
CAPT Derbyshire SO3 Ops HQ 4 FF Gp
CAPT Cameron SO3 COORD HQ 4 FF Gp

26. Communications. Rear link communication facilities were provided by WRE. Telephone facilities were made available at main base and signals were transmitted by telex from Woomera. Signals were passed from mainbase to Woomera by telephone. Communications between main base and field parties was by AN/PRA-F1 radio. A detailed report on radio communication is Annex F to this report.

Logistics

27. Supply. Rations, water, aircraft and vehicle fuels were supplied by WRE. All other stores were drawn from 4 Fd Svy Sqn and Army resources prior to the departure of the Det from Adelaide.

Resupply. Main base was resupplied by WRE on an as required basis using WRE aircraft and vehicles. Forward bases were resupplied by road from mainbase using Det vehicles. Stocks of rations, both fresh and dry, were maintained at forward bases for seven days with resupply of fresh rations every three days. Resupply of dry rations, fuel and water to forward bases was on an as required basis.

Fuel. The following aircraft and vehicle fuel was used during the operation:

- a. MT - Bulk 14400 litres
Drum 600 litres;
- b. AVTUR - Drum 11000 litres

Vehicles. The vehicles allocated to the operation performed satisfactorily with only minor repairs required, which were capably carried out by the Det transport supervisor. The vehicles used were:

- 1x Truck, Cargo, 5 ton GS, with winch
- 3x Truck, Carryall, $\frac{3}{4}$ ton GS, Topo

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/2x Truck,

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2x Truck, Carryall, $\frac{1}{4}$ ton GS, Topo

3x Trailer, Cargo, $\frac{1}{2}$ ton GS



(J. GRUSZKA)
MAJ
OC

17 Oct 77

- Annexes:
- A. Nominal Roll
 - B. Organization
 - C. Area of Operation
 - D. Report on Field Completion
 - E. Reconnaissance Report
 - F. Report on Radio Communications

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ANNEX A
TO PROJECT REPORT
OPERATION SHORT WALK II
DATED 17 OCT 77

NOMINAL ROLL
OPERATION "SHORT WALK II"

4 Fd Svy Sqn

3172833	CAPT	R.L.	Roche	24 May 77 - 24 Jun 77
222313	LT	A.B.	McLellan	" "
37371	WO2	D.L.	Wicker	" "
37765	SSGT	P.D.	Davis	" "
42045	SGT	R.J.	Brock	" "
45423	SGT	S.	Hinic	" "
314097	CPL	M.P.	Coletti	" "
45901	CPL	R.R.	Dikkenberg	" "
220351	CPL	T.A.	Hosie	" "
340023	CPL	K.R.	Langley	" "
43223	CPL	P.G.	Manoel	" "
45519	CPL	M.D.	Sarson	" "
58347	PTE	G.	Dinsdale	" "
46534	SPR	P.D.	Morris	" "
211985	SPR	N.B.	Savidge	" "
46446	SPR	W.I.	Shephard	" "

117 Op Spt Sqn

1200956	CAPT	P.H.	Rogers	28 May 77 - 9 Jun 77
1202778	LCPL	R.J.	Crawford	28 May 77 - 20 Jun 77
2244487	CFN	P.H.	Craddock	" "
1202539	LT	D.J.	Dowling	9 Jun 77 - 20 Jun 77
243370	SGT	L.	Avery	9 Jun 77 - 11 Jun 77
48655	SGT	B.	Calder	" "
44503	SGT	K.G.	Kemp	" "
45232	CPL	J.R.	Bedford	" "
220883	CFN	A.D.	Show	9 Jun 77 - 11 Jun 77
221282	CFN	L.G.	Hamilton	" "

Civilian Personnel

Mr	B.	Lay	30 May 77 - 24 Jun 77
Mr	R.M.	Baker	30 May 77 - 3 Jun 77

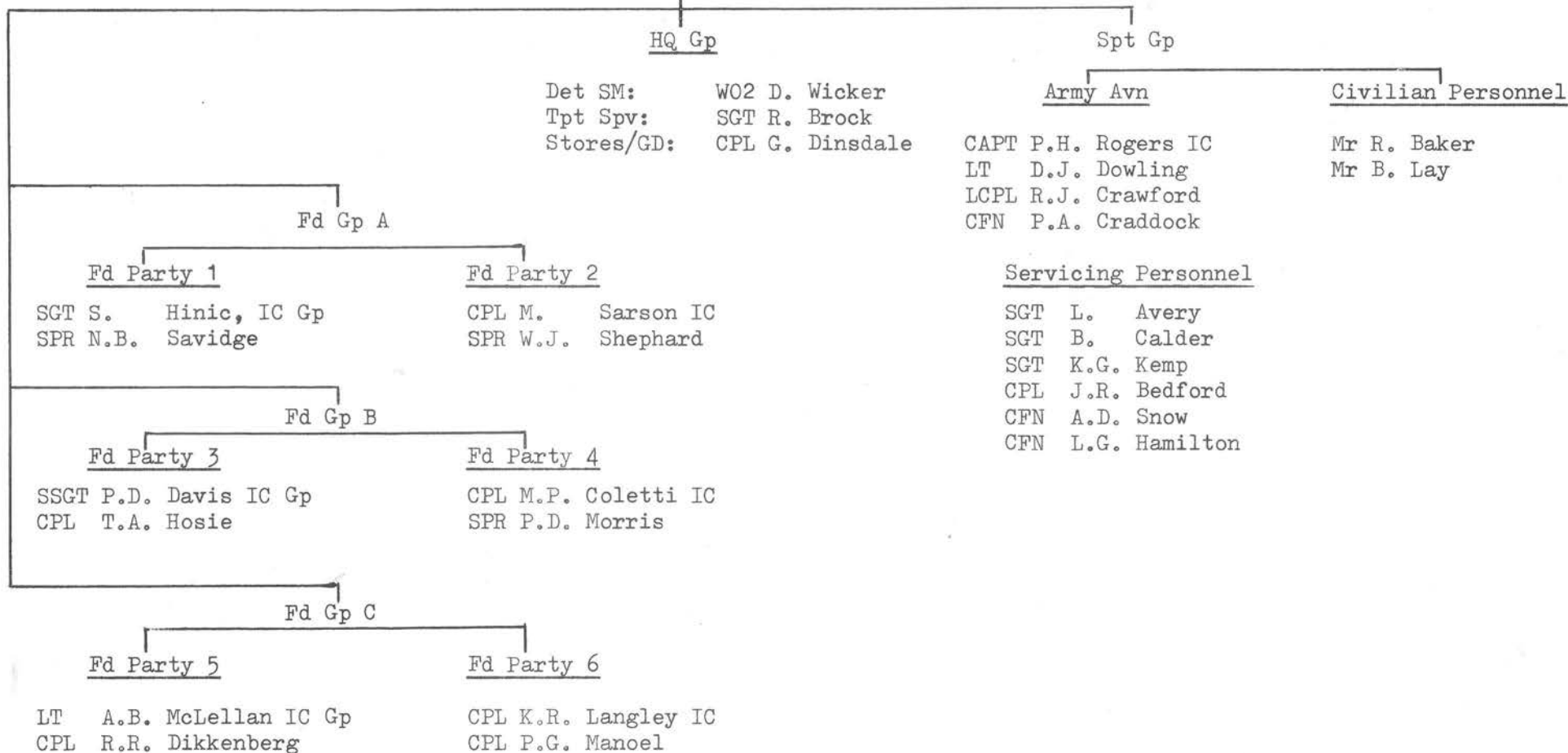
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ANNEX B
TO PROJECT REPORT
OPERATION SHORT WALK II
DATED 17 OCT 77

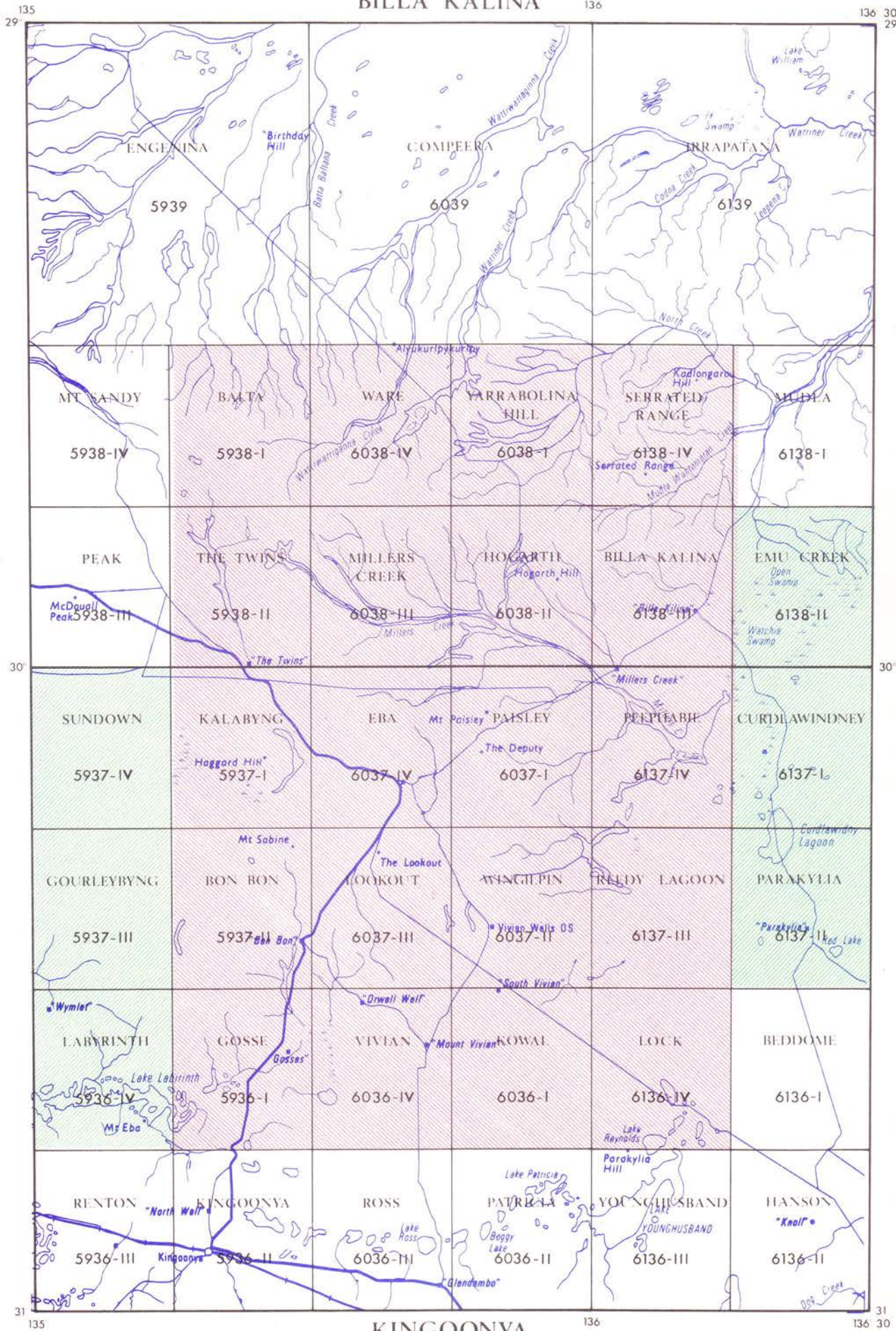
ORGANIZATION
OPERATION "SHORT WALK II"

Det Comd : CAPT R.L. Roche



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AREA OF OPERATION OPERATION SHORT WALK II BILLA KALINA



FIELD COMPLETION

RECONNAISSANCE

REPORT ON FIELD COMPLETION

OPERATION SHORT WALK II

5938-I BALTA

1. General. Checked by air only, approximately 5 aircraft hours were used.
2. Cultural. The cultural detail picked up during plotting was accurately portrayed. The fences and tracks added by field completion are position approximate. Several tracks in the area are seldom used but remain visible for long periods.
3. Drainage. The river patterns were very well portrayed by the plotters. The shape of drainage features was accurately plotted but photo interpretation was often inaccurate with many swamps being wrongly labelled as claypans. These anomalies were corrected during field completion.
4. Vegetation. Vegetation is sparse and of land mark value. It was well plotted, they only alteration necessary was to upgrade some areas of scattered scrub to medium scrub.

6038-IV WARE

5. General. Checked by air only, approximately 5 aircraft hours were used.
6. Cultural. Very little amendment necessary to the plotted detail.
7. Drainage. The drainage portrayal on the plot sheets was generally good.
8. Relief. The area feature named Painted Hills at GR 493160 was found to be an area of small hillocks with no one outstanding peak.
9. Vegetation. The vegetation was well portrayed. The main amendment necessary was the upgrading of the vegetation in the mainly dry watercourses from scattered scrub to medium scrub.

6038-I YARRABOLINA HILL

10. General. Checked by air only, approximately 5 aircraft hours were used.
11. Cultural. Cultural detail is sparse and was well plotted. A fence running N-S in the SW corner of the map sheet was in bad repair and was washed out in several places, however it is of landmark value and should be portrayed on the map with the descriptive note "In disrepair".
12. Relief. A white pinnacle at GR 815015 is very prominent and is an excellent navigational aid both by ground and air. It should be identified on the map by a feature symbol and the descriptive note "Prominent white pinnacle".

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13. Vegetation. Some vegetation along the watercourses was upgraded from scattered scrub to medium scrub.

6138-IV SERRATED RANGE

14. General. Checked by air only, approximately five aircraft hours used.

15. Cultural. Cultural detail is sparse however there had been considerable change since the date of the mapping photography, particularly around bores. The Brumby Proof Fence which runs generally N-S across the sheet was difficult to position accurately because of its meandering nature. It was finally positioned from the 1:250000 scale map and should be labelled position approximate.

16. Drainage. The drainage was well plotted and very little amendment was necessary.

17. Vegetation. Generally the vegetation was consistently and accurately plotted. Only minor amendment was necessary by upgrading the classification of vegetation in some of the watercourses.

5938-II THE TWINS

18. General. Checked by ground and air. One ground party was in the area for 5 days and approximately $3\frac{1}{2}$ aircraft hours were used.

19. Cultural. The Stuart Highway has been realigned North of The Twins homestead. Some fences have been constructed with radial corners, this has been done to help guide sheep towards water.

20. Drainage. The drainage was generally portrayed well. The only change in the drainage was the reclassification of some claypans to swamps.

21. Vegetation. Very little vegetation change was noted. As the vegetation became denser its importance as a landmark feature diminished.

6038-III MILLERS CREEK

22. General. Checked by ground and air. One ground party was in the area for 5 days and approximately $3\frac{1}{2}$ aircraft hours were used.

23. Drainage. The numerous small claypans adjacent to the Millers Creek are a prominent area feature. They were not checked individually but as a whole they are representative of the area.

24. Vegetation. The vegetation was very sparse and hardly any change was evident from the vegetation as plotted.

6038-II HOGARTH

25. General. Checked by air and ground. One ground party was in the area for 4 days and approximately $3\frac{1}{2}$ aircraft hours were used.

26. Cultural. Many tracks have been changed into straight one lane unsealed roads and are well maintained. Some old tracks have degenerated into eroded channels, which are extremely difficult to follow by vehicle and at times can only be followed by the higher than average salt bush which sometimes grows in the old wheel ruts. Deeply scored cattle pads were plotted as tracks and these were deleted. The rectangular dams in the area are in fact earth tanks.

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27. Relief. The area in the NW corner of the sheet is known as "breakaway country". It is an area heavily eroded by creek systems flowing northwards. The contour interval prohibits accurate depiction of the ground which is much more rugged and broken than the map depicts.

28. Drainage. Millers Creek and the numerous small claypans adjacent to it are the predominant water features on the sheet.

29. Vegetation. The vegetation in the area is very sparse.

6138-III BILLA KALINA

30. General. Checked by ground and air. One ground party was in the area for 5 days and approximately 4½ aircraft hours were used.

31. Cultural. See 6038-II HOGARTH

32. Drainage. On a sheet generally devoid of any river system, the Devils Playground situated in the SE corner of the sheet is the predominant drainage feature. It is a large claypan, large areas of which are densely covered with canegrass. The canegrass areas have been classified as swamp. Several other drainage features were reclassified, eg, from mainly dry lake to swamp and one large area that was plotted as a claypan was actually only a tonal change and was deleted.

33. Vegetation. The vegetation was generally accurate as plotted.

5937-I KALABYNG

34. General. Checked by ground and air. One ground party was in the area for 6 days and approximately 4 aircraft hours were used.

35. Drainage. Kalabyng swamp was originally plotted with two boundaries. The inner boundary was classified as swamp and the outer boundary was classified as mainly dry lake. The vegetation within the inner boundary was different from that between the outer and inner boundaries, however, experts from the SA Department of Agriculture and Fisheries advised that both types were swamp vegetation. Kalabyng swamp has been reclassified as swamp right up to the outer boundary and the inner boundary has been deleted. The locals said that during the last two "big wets" Kalabyng Swamp was filled to a depth of 12 feet. A continuation of Kalabyng Swamp extends further north than originally plotted and finally fuses together with the existing, plotted vegetation. Adjacent and east of Kalabyng Swamp are several small mainly dry lakes.

36. Vegetation. The small, mainly dry lakes adjacent and east of Kalabyng Swamp are surrounded by Ti-tree growing in sand. The sand areas have been added to the cultural plot sheet and they should appear on the final map labelled "Ti-tree". Classification of vegetation was difficult as it generally grows in widely separated rows of medium scrub. The area could best be portrayed by classifying these areas as scattered scrub with the descriptive note "Scattered rows of medium scrub".

6037-IV EBA

37. General. Checked by ground and by air. One ground party was in the area for 6 days and approximately 3 aircraft hours were used.

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38. Cultural. Some buildings at Mt Eba landing ground were in bad repair and appeared disused. Some new fences were added. A large radio aerial (about 200 feet high) was located and added to the cultural sheet. It should be portrayed on the map by a located object symbol with the descriptive note "Tower".

39. Drainage. There are very few drainage features on this sheet, except for a mainly dry water course east of Mt Eba homestead and numerous small clay-pans in the N W corner of the sheet.

40. Relief. Several areas that had been plotted as sand dunes were deleted as they were nothing more than tonal changes in the gibber plain, however the sand ridges that were plotted did exist and were extremely good navigational aids from the air.

41. Vegetation. Several areas of 'Scattered rows of medium scrub' appear on this sheet (see para 36 above).

6037-I PAISLEY

42. General. Checked by ground and air. One ground party was in the area for 4 days and approximately $3\frac{1}{2}$ aircraft hours were used.

43. Cultural. The track to Mt Paisley is almost unusable, even for 4 wheel drive vehicles. Large scale field sketches of culturally congested areas have been added to the plot sheets.

44. Drainage. Very little amendment was needed to the drainage as plotted. The main drainage features are mainly dry water courses, claypans and swamps.

45. Vegetation. Generally accurate as plotted. Medium scrub was added along the sand ridges.

6137-IV PEEPHABIE

46. General. Checked by ground and air. One ground party was in the area for $5\frac{1}{2}$ days and approximately $3\frac{1}{2}$ aircraft hours were used.

47. Cultural. A new landing ground has been constructed to the north of Millers Creek homestead and the old landing ground to the SE of the homestead is for emergency use only. Fences, paddock boundaries and paddock names have been added.

48. Drainage. Millers Creek dominates the mapsheet. A longer time than usual was used to accurately field complete the drainage in this area. Apart from Millers Creek there is a continuation of the Devils Playground; an extensive area of numerous small claypans and small swamps, and other areas of swamp including the large Peephobie Swamp.

49. Relief. Numerous sand ridges occur in the area, they are easily identifiable and useful navigation aids by air. The use of the cliff symbol on the features to the west of Devils Playground is not strictly correct but is adequate since the features are very steep and appear as cliffs from the distance.

50. Vegetation. The vegetation did not vary much from what was plotted.

5937-II BON BON

51. General. Checked by ground and by air. One ground party was in the area for 5 days and approximately $3\frac{1}{2}$ aircraft hours were used.
52. Drainage. Accurately plotted, except that some mainly dry lakes were reclassified to swamp.
53. Vegetation. Several areas of 'Scattered rows of medium scrub' were added.

6037-III LOOKOUT

54. General. Checked by ground and by air. One ground party was in the area for 5 days and approximately $3\frac{1}{2}$ aircraft hours were used.
53. Drainage. The area is generally devoid of major drainage features. The drainage was generally accurate as plotted.
54. Vegetation. The vegetation was generally accurate as plotted.

6037-II WINGILPIN

55. General. Checked by ground and air. One ground party was in the area for 7 days and approximately $3\frac{1}{2}$ aircraft hours were used.
56. Cultural. There was a general degeneration of fences, tracks and bores. Very little new work was evident. The only regularly maintained roads in the area were those along the vermin proof fence and the 2 lane unsealed road that passes Vivian Well outstation.
57. Drainage. Difficulty was experienced with the classification of Lake Wingilpin. It was decided to classify the outer extremity as mainly dry lake and the inner part of the lake as swamp. After a heavy wet season the lake fills to its outer extremity and as the water drains away it leaves a swamp in the centre. A similar feature exists on the eastern edge of the sheet and it has been classified in the same manner.
58. Vegetation. Some changes were made to the vegetation around Lake Wingilpin, otherwise the vegetation was accurate as plotted.

6137-III REEDY LAGOON

59. General. Checked by ground and air. One ground party was in the area for 5 days and approximately $3\frac{1}{2}$ aircraft hours were used.
60. Cultural. The area had suffered severe bush fires which destroyed many miles of fencing. The fencing is progressively being replaced. There is a new graded track in the N W of the sheet.
61. Drainage. Many of the drainage boundaries that had been plotted did not exist on the ground. Some were tonal changes in the gibber plain and others could not be found at all.
62. Vegetation. There was a marked difference in the plotted vegetation from what actually existed in the area of Moondiepitchrie Bore and large areas of medium scrub were downgraded to scattered scrub. Also in the area of Moondiepitchrie Bore single lines had been plotted and described as distinct lines of dense scrub. On inspection the dense scrub was more extensive than as plotted and the lines were joined together to form areas of dense scrub.

5936-I GOSSE

63. General. Checked by ground and air. One ground party was in the area for 6 days and approximately 4 aircraft hours were used.

64. Drainage. Two boundaries (an inner and an outer) were plotted for the lakes in the SW corner of the sheet. The area between the outer and the inner boundaries has been classified as swamp and the inner boundary is the shore line of a mainly dry lake.

65. Vegetation. The vegetation was generally accurate as plotted.

6036-IV VIVIAN

66. General. Checked by ground and air. One ground party was in the area for 6 days and approximately 4 aircraft hours were used.

67. Cultural. Some fire breaks were located and were added as approximate position only. A small landing ground at Mt Vivian homestead is very short and is fenced at both ends, it appears suitable for small, light aircraft only.

68. Drainage. The main feature on this sheet is an extensive drainage system along the western edge, running the entire length of the sheet. The system contains several mainly dry salt lakes within swamp.

69. Vegetation. Large areas of dense scrub were added, bordering on the main drainage system.

6036-I KOWAL

70. General. Checked by ground and air. One ground party was in the area for 4 days and approximately $3\frac{1}{2}$ aircraft hours were used.

71. Cultural. Many fire breaks and tracks were added and are position approximate. The airstrip in the NE of the sheet is badly overgrown and is suitable for emergency use only. Some fences are in bad repair and this has been noted on the cultural sheet. Telegraph lines in the area are sometimes in bad repair but are of landmark value. Roadside telephones have been added. Towers in the area are of landmark value and have been positioned approximately, the accurate positions can be obtained from the Edition 1 maps. Where tracks were in bad repair, they were shown only when their destination was significant, if a better track had superseded a track in bad repair then the old track was not shown. All gates and grids were added and yards were added when found. Dams with earth banks (earth tanks) were noted. Scrapes were an insignificant aid to navigation and only the larger ones should be shown.

72. Drainage. Many of the drainage boundaries that had been plotted were non-existent on the ground. The prominent drainage feature is the swamp in the centre of the sheet. All wells were tested for the presence of water and if dry appropriately noted.

73. Vegetation. The vegetation was generally accurate as plotted. A cleared lane, following a telegraph line, was added from the eastern edge to the centre of the sheet.

6136-IV LOCK

74. General. Checked by ground and air. One ground party was in the area for 5 days and approximately 4 aircraft hours were used.

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75. Cultural. Bitumen surfaced helipads exist in the area. Generally similar to 6036-I KOWAL.

76. Drainage. Most of the unclassified drainage features on the sheet were found to be swamps. The mainly dry salt lakes on the sheet were correctly plotted.

77. Vegetation. The vegetation was generally accurate as plotted. Some areas of scattered scrub and dense scrub were added near the northern edge of the sheet.

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RECONNAISSANCE REPORT
OPERATION SHORT WALK II

GENERAL

1. Reconnaissance of parts of the remaining uncharted areas of the Kingoonya and Billa Kalina 1:250000 scale map areas was undertaken during operation SHORT WALK II, to identify areas likely to cause difficulty in photo interpretation and to familiarize members of the unit with such areas.
2. The reconnaissance was in two areas, one in the west of the operational area and the other in the east. The Western Reconnaissance Area was covered partly by air and partly on the ground. The Eastern Reconnaissance Area was covered on the ground.

WESTERN RECONNAISSANCE AREA

3. The area covered included the following 1:50000 scale map areas:

5937-IV SUNDOWN

5937-III GOURLEYBYNG

5936-IV LABYRINTH

4. Dyelines of recently completed plot sheets of the areas in para 3 above were used for the reconnaissance and all comments are recorded on the appropriate dyelines.

EASTERN RECONNAISSANCE AREA

Area

5. The reconnaissance area was a rectangle bounded by 30° 30'S to 29° 30'S and 136° 15' E to 136° 30'E.

Method

6. The reconnaissance was by vehicle using 1:250000 scale maps to locate areas of possible interest.

Locations

7. The locations described in the following paragraphs are identified in Appendix 1 to this Annex.

Description

8. Location 1. This area is a swamp. It is darker in colour than the surrounding country; dark grey when dry. It is like wading in a giant bog, and would not support conventional vehicles. Further east the whole area is a vast treeless grassland except for some very scattered scrub along some of the watercourses. Mt Morgan and Emu Bluff are clearly visible for a minimum of 10

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to 15 miles. Emu Bluff is like a mesa, although not quite as sharp at the junction of the plateau surface with the side slopes.

9. Location 2. A dry watercourse with large deep cracks; extremely broken profile, grass covered and a darker colour than the surrounding ground. Dismal Plain is a large grass covered plain with low scattered scrub and patches of sandy coloured material in the general area of Chandlers Waterhole.

10. Location 3. The features running parallel to Emu Bluff are deceptively depicted on the 1:250000 scale map, no cliffs were evident as portrayed on the 1:250000 scale map.

11. Location 4. Open Swamp is a similar feature to Devils Playground; grass on the periphery and canegrass in the centre.

12. Location 5. Watchie Swamp is a large claypan of lighter coloured clay than is usual in the area. Islands of canegrass are distinctive and the feature is bordered with canegrass and has very slightly sloping banks. There are patches of rock on the claypan.

13. Location 6. Vegetation on the sand dunes is medium scrub to dense scrub. The colour changes from bright green to dark green. Average height of the sand dunes is 2 to 3 metres. To the south there is a treeless, grassland plain with patches of gibber.

14. Location 7. Vegetation on sand dunes is scattered scrub to medium scrub.

15. Location 8. Trig Hill Swamp is a mainly dry, canegrass swamp. Brennans Dam is fenced off with yards in the SW corner.

16. Location 9. Scattered scrub to medium scrub only on the sand ridges. Davies Dam is fed by a 50 metre wide channel and a road goes inside the dam wall. There are yards on the SW corner of the dam.

17. Location 10. Central Swamp is a canegrass swamp. The average height of the sand ridges is 5 to 7 metres. This area is classic sand dune - claypan-sand dune country. There are patches of gibber on some of the claypans. Munrose Dam is a claypan catchment surrounded on three sides by sand dunes. To the south of Munrose Dam the sand dunes became smaller (2 to 3 metres) and the claypans are replaced by small flat gibber plains in the areas between the dunes. Native pine is becoming more abundant towards the south.

18. Location 11. Five miles to the east of Bamboo Swamp the native pine is more abundant with a classification of scattered forest with patches of medium forest. The topography is undulating with very white sand. In many places only native pine is found on the sand dunes with no other vegetation at all. There are very small claypans in the low lying areas.

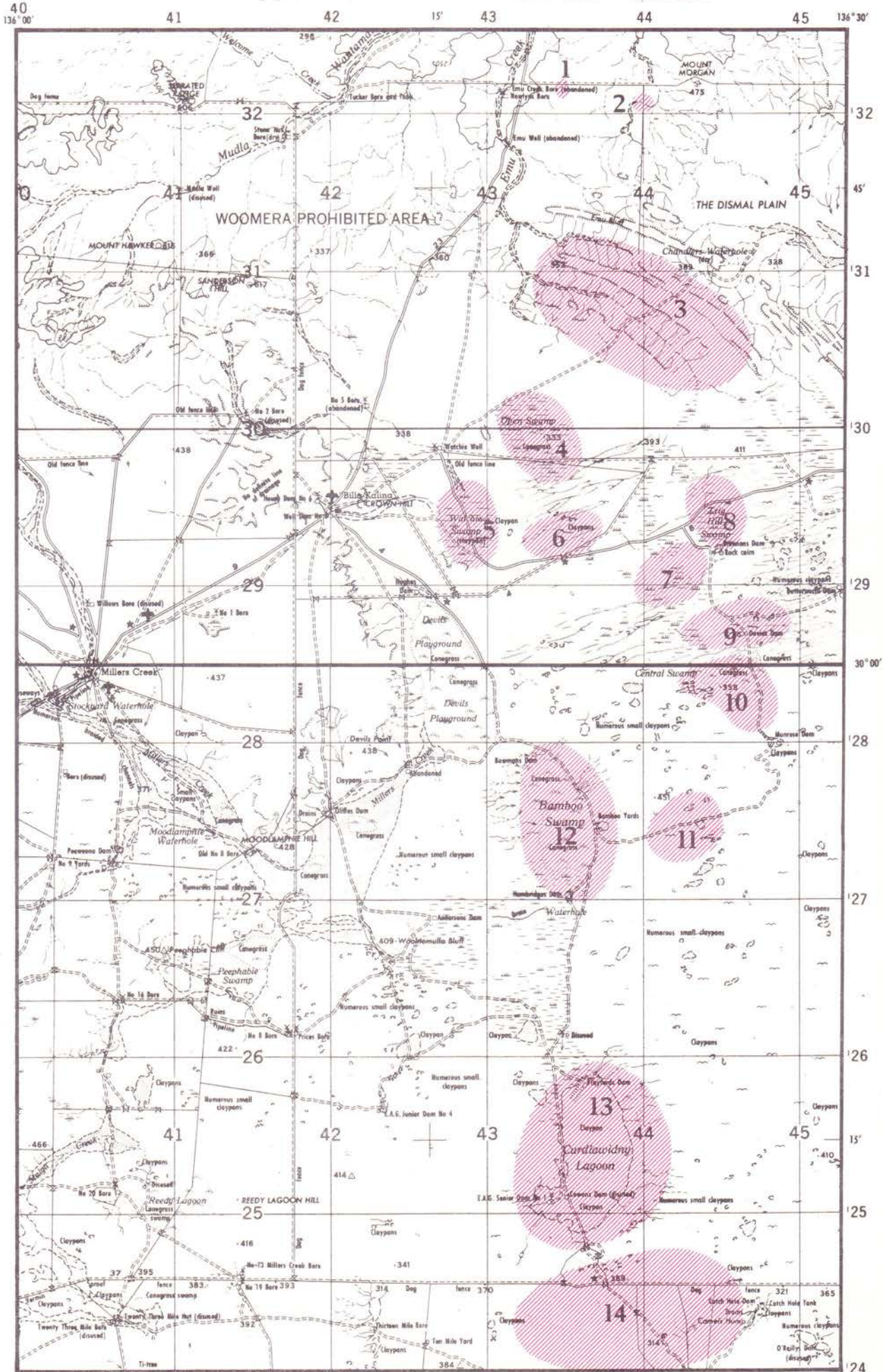
19. Location 12. Bamboo Swamp is a canegrass swamp with a distinct perimeter of scattered scrub and medium scrub, in most places.

20. Location 13. Curdlamidny Lagoon is one of the larger claypans in the Billa Kalina - Kingoonya area. It has large patches of gibber and small patches of canegrass.

21. Location 14. Sand dunes are 3 to 5 metres high and are dominated by native pine; scattered forest to medium forest with some scattered scrub to medium scrub. The area all around Parakylia homestead is heavily dominated by native pine.

RESTRICTED

EASTERN RECONNAISSANCE AREA



REPORT ON RADIO COMMUNICATIONS
OPERATION SHORT WALK II

Reliability

1. Six Radios (Type AN/PRC F1) were employed during the operation. One for each of the four field parties, one as a base radio and one spare.
2. The four field radios operated reliably for the duration of the operation, considering they were being transported in Landrovers over rough, dusty terrain at all times. The spare was substituted for the base radio after it failed to produce a tuning tone.

Aerial Configuration

3. It was established during previous operations in this area that the most reliable aerial configuration was an end fed set up. This again proved successful and in some instances, when the field parties were on particularly high features, a whip aerial was satisfactory over distances of 80 Km.
4. The base station aerial was also an end fed, hooked up to the radio through the P.R.P. F2 Aerial Coupler. This was a distinct advantage as it allowed twice the length of aerial wire and consequently a commanding strength over the field radios.

Power Supply

5. Good reliability was experienced with the rechargeable F1 Batteries. However this was achieved only by careful seeding out of several unserviceable batteries prior to the operation.

Frequencies

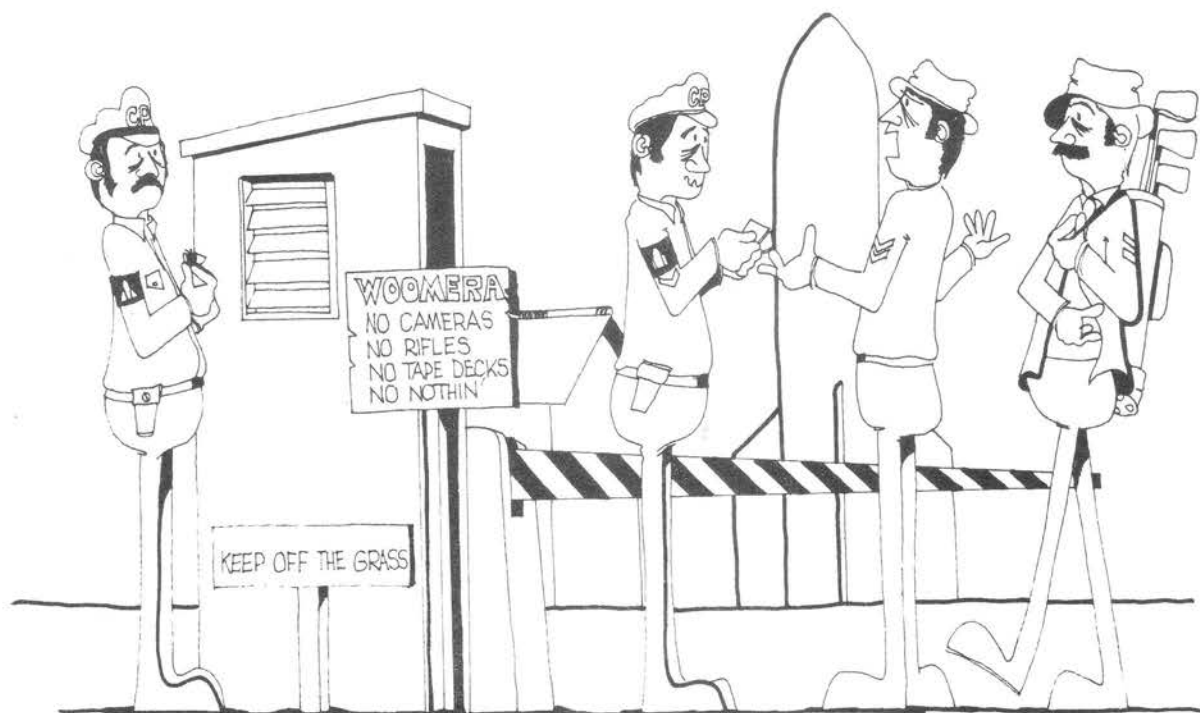
6. It is strongly recommended that the operating frequency allotted for future operations be compatible with at least one of the fixed frequencies available in the supporting aircraft. Preferably 6.238 MHZ.
7. It proved necessary to communicate directly with the aircraft during the times when normal search and rescue listening watches by air traffic control in the area was not available to the aircraft. These times were usually early morning, late afternoon, and at weekends. Communications with the aircraft were also required at random times during normal working hours to receive sit-reps and for tasking of operations.

Radio Schedule Times

8. Although scheduled communications were planned at 0700 hrs, 1200 hrs, and 1800 hrs, the only reliable comms were carried out between 1000 hrs and approximately 1600 hrs. Interference was found to be excessive outside these times and this occurred on all allotted frequencies.

OPERATION SHORT WALK II

Comment:
The restrictions placed on movement
in the area and equipment taken on the
Operation by personnel was of consider-
able interest to some members.



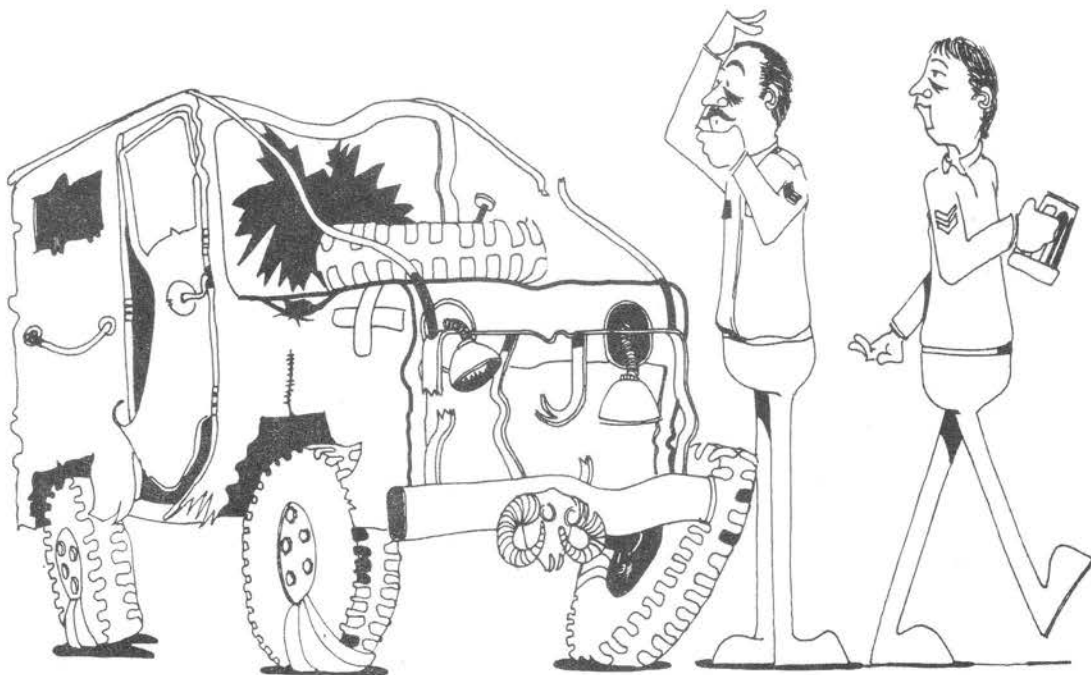
"THIS PLACE MUST BE SECRET. NONE OF US KNOW WHAT WE'RE BLOODY DOIN HERE!"

Comment:
Local knowledge was, as always, used
in the 'Field Completion' of the
maps.



'WE'RE DOING A FIELD CHECK COULD YOU GUYS SAVE US SOME TIME AND FILL IN THE BLANK SPACES?'

Comment:
Sgt Brock laboured long hours to keep
the Detachment mobile - often against
overwhelming odds.



'I ADMIT IT NEEDS A COAT OF PAINT BUT THE ENGINE'S OKAY!'

Comment!
Losses of personal equipment though not
great were varied. e.g. One (1) only
size 9 boot - suspected stolen by a
hungry dingo????.



" WE HAVE A LETTER FROM CAPTAIN ROCHE OF 4 FIELD SURVEY ASKING US TO LOOK /
OUT FOR A ONE LEGGED MAN WEARING A SIZE NINE G.P. BOOT! "